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POLICE WARN MOTORISTS OF POSSIBLE SCAM ARTIST

(February 14, 2006 – Frisco)

Police are warning motorists of a man who solicits money from busy intersection medians. Frisco Police officers have encountered Kevin Rowell (w/m 03/07/74) on several occasions standing in the median near SH 121 and Preston Rd with a dog and a sign that says his house burned down and that he needs help.

Rowell was first arrested by FPD on March 11, 2004 with a similar, if not the same sign. He was standing with the dog at that time also. According to the arrest report, Rowell told the officer that he was “conning” people and that he had been all over the country using the sign. He also told the officer that he normally collected \$60-100 an hour with the scheme and that he pays a driver \$50 a day to help him escape from the police. At that time, Rowell was arrested for Violation of Frisco’s solicitation ordinance and an outstanding warrant issued by Lewisville PD for Solicitation by Pedestrian.

Rowell had fled from FPD several times before the arrest and has continued to elude police since. His usual method is to stand on the north median of 121 and Preston, and then run across the boundary into Plano’s city limits, where he disappears.

On February 1, 2006, officers were dispatched to that area on a welfare concern. The caller said that there was a man with a dog begging for money in the median. Once the officer arrived, the man tried to flee on foot across 121 into Plano. The officer was able to stop him and identified him as Rowell. During the initial investigation, Rowell, again, told the officer that he has made up to \$60 in an hour and sometimes its \$10, \$20 or \$25 of “fast” cash each time. He was arrested for Evading Detention or Arrest and outstanding warrants issued by Denton PD for soliciting without a permit.

Motorists are warned to be aware of Rowell and his scheme to prey on caring and compassionate citizens. Two (2) book-in photographs are attached to this release.

[Photo 1](#)

[Photo 2](#)

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